

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 21, and 22 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 11 and canceled claim 13. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-19, 21, and 22 will be pending, of which claims 1, 11, and 19 are independent claims.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,091,616 to Jacobs et al. The Examiner also allowed claims 1, 2, 4-10, 19, 21, and 22 and indicated that claims 12, 13, and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Following the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have canceled claim 13 and amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of canceled claim 13, which was indicated as allowable. The rejected claim 14 and the remaining objected-to claims 12 and 15-18 depend from amended claim 11. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claim 11 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 12, 14, and 15-18 are also in condition for allowance due at least to their dependency on amended claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is

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desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Date: February 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Document #: 1271426 v.1